



STUART JOHNSON, DESERET NEWS

Springville artist Gary Price has big plans for the three-story, H.T. Reynolds & Co. building built in 1892.

1892 BUILDING

Springville sculptor plans to turn landmark into cultural arts center

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SPRINGVILLE — A local artist has purchased a Springville landmark with plans to renovate it into a cultural arts center.

Sculptor Gary Price recently obtained a large three-story building located on the corner of 200 South and Main Street.

Built in 1892 by H.T. Reynolds & Co., the structure has 20,000 square feet of space, which Price plans to fill with an art gallery, an area for art classes and a personal studio.

"I've admired this building ever since we moved to Springville," Price said. The 40-year-old artist, who sells his sculptures nationwide, has lived in Springville for 13 years.

The idea to buy the Reynolds building came after Price considered purchasing a building jointly with a friend. Price said he looked at some other buildings in Springville before learning that the Reynolds building was available.

"It's going to be a dream to have a studio here with all this space," Price said as he glanced around the building's empty second floor. Each floor of the building, including the basement, measures 5,000

square feet. The building was constructed as a three-story mercantile store — the largest department store in Utah County. The third floor served as a ballroom, and coal and lumber yards were located at the rear of the building.

An engineer and architect have been examining the building to see what needs to be done to bring it up to code requirements, Price said. Plans now are to locate Price's personal studio on the second floor and an area for art classes on the third floor.

The first floor will house a gallery where the public can view and purchase artworks. Eventually, Price would like to put a restaurant in the building's basement.

While art galleries, artist studios and areas for art classes aren't uncommon in Utah, it is unusual to see them all housed in one building. "To have it all in one package — I think it is quite unique," Price said.

The sculptor paid \$300,000 for the building, which includes architectural details such as long lines of windows on its east and south sides and stonework on the outside. The second and third floors are mainly open space. The main level will probably require the

most work, as it will need a lot of modification to become a gallery, Price said.

"To have a gallery with high ceilings is absolutely incredible," Price said. Ceiling heights in the building are 13 to 14 feet.

Price said the historical character of the building will be maintained. All windows will have to be replaced, and the brick will be cleaned. The fire escape will be taken off the outside and replaced on the inside, and an elevator will be put in an already-existing elevator shaft.

The entire renovation project may take several years, with the first-floor gallery and his personal studio receiving attention first.

Price said it is customary in England for artists to open their studios on Tuesday and allow the public to visit and see the artists at work. He wants to continue that tradition, allowing people to browse through his new studio and see what sculptures he is working on.

"Generally, I think the public is uneducated on what it takes to create a sculpture in bronze," he said. Price generally has two to 10 works in various stages of completion at any one time.

County says

other Monday. After Overson lashed out at Holden, Short rushed to the podium to chastise him for the outburst.

"Do not attack my people," Short shouted at the chairman.

As the two traded verbal blows, a sheriff's deputy stood beside Short, one hand extended as if waiting for the signal to pull the attorney from the commission chambers. Overson gave such a command in December during a meeting in which Short opposed the commission's decision to give Taylorsville-Bennion officials money to get their new government up and running.

Short also opposes what the commission, acting as the county Redevelopment Agency, is considering doing for Wallnet Investments, the company that wants to

build the 837,630-square-foot Cottonwood Center on 44½ acres near 6500 South and 3000 East. The \$170 million complex would include 10 office buildings and a 250-room hotel.

Wallnet's principals say they need the \$3.5 million tax break to pay for the extra costs of developing on a former gravel pit and so they can build the project in less time and generate more county tax revenue. Short believes such a break could violate the uniform taxation law.

That disagreement may have set the foundation for a procedural dispute that had the commission confused as to how long it must wait before taking a formal vote, as the redevelopment agency, on the Wallnet tax subsidy. Any decision was put off until at least Wednesday, when Overson said the commission hopes to have an outside attorney working on the Cottonwood Center proposal.

"I think we're at the point . . . I don't think we're getting adequately served by the attorney's office," Overson said at the close of the hearing.

The Overson vs. Short rematch overshadowed public comment on whether the county should designate the Cottonwood Center as an economic development project area, making it eligible for government assistance. Citizens spoke both in favor and against the proposal.

Joel Madsen, a Sandy resident and co-owner of the nearby Union Park Center development, asked if public subsidy of private enterprise was really necessary. His project didn't need it, he said.

Madsen said Wallnet's estimates on how much tax revenue its project would generate appear to be inflated. He said the developer is "seeking a handout" it doesn't need.

